

What is Claimed is:

1. A portable system comprising a host system, and a field system that can communicate with the host system, said portable system capable of:

5 receiving engineering information related to at least a portion of a construction project from a database or spreadsheet, formatting the information into a suitable format to be used for one or more of printing identification product, preparing work packages, tracking materials used, and reporting materials used for the construction project.

10 2. A portable system of claim 1 being further capable of generating orders for identification products and managing fulfillment of the orders.

3. A portable system of claim 2 wherein managing fulfillment of the orders comprises generating a termination report.

15 4. A portable system of claim 2 wherein managing fulfillment of the orders comprises generating a pull card.

20 5. A portable system of claim 1 being further capable of providing remote tracking capability to verify and quantify project progress as measured by one or more of materials used and man-hours used.

6. A portable system of claim 1 further comprising a printing system that can communicate with one or both of the host and field systems.

25 7. A portable system according to claim 1 wherein the host or field system communicates information regarding label contents, formatting, and printing sequence to the printing system.

8. A portable system according to claim 1 wherein said at least a portion of the construction project is an electrical subproject.

9. A portable system according to claim 2 wherein at least one label or marker ordered is for an electrical device, a cable, or an electrical termination.

10. A portable system according to claim 9 wherein said at least one label is delivered together with a termination report.

11. A portable system according to claim 9 wherein at least one cable label is delivered together with a cable accessory kit.

12. A portable system according to claim 2 wherein orders are generated for at least one master carton containing multiple products for the same construction area, wherein level criteria for the contents of said master carton have been pre-selected.

13. A portable system of claim 1 being further capable of generating reports covering one or more of estimates of cable length requirements, field installation logs, the actual length of cable used, and the reel from which it was pulled.

14. A business method comprising

a) receiving written or electronic engineering data for a construction project or subproject and

b) transferring the data to a software program that organizes the data into a suitable format to be used for one or more of printing identification products, preparing work packages, tracking materials used, and reporting materials used for the construction project.

15. A business method of claim 14 wherein the formatted information can be used for one or more of making identification products according to one or more different levels, establishing marking requirements, and making project management calculations.

5 16. A business method of claim 14 further comprising generating orders for identification products.

17. A business method of claim 14 wherein the identification products are one or both of generated and delivered according to project milestones.

10 18. A business method of claim 14 further comprising generating reports covering one or more of estimates of cable length requirements, field installation logs, the actual length of cable used, and the reel from which it was pulled.

15 19. A business method according to claim 14 comprising:

- a) receiving written or electronic engineering data for an electrical subproject of a construction project ,
- b) creating in a software program a unique template that translates the received data into a format understood by the user,
- 20 c) transferring the data to said software program to provide termination point data for use in determining specific identification product requirements, determining marking requirements, and making electrical project management calculations,
- d) managing the termination point data for cabling, routing, and marking purposes in a common format in said software program,
- 25 e) managing changes to engineering data, analyzing how changes to the data effect identification products needed, and generating reports on any changes to said data,
- f) tracking progress of the project by work completion,
- g) distributing information by means of the software using the Internet,
- h) sorting termination data by specific area, device, system, cable, or wire,
- 30 i) generating orders for electrical identification products, and

j) integrating supply chain process flow information into the process as automated steps for ordering, processing, and fulfillment.

20. A business method of claim 19 wherein tracking progress of the project by work completion is accomplished by tracking earned hours to calculate percentage of completion.

21. A business method of claim 19 further comprising utilizing radio frequency identification for one or more of product ordering, product re-ordering, material management, and project tracking.

22. A business method according to claim 19 further comprising a step in which the software electronically generate invoices for products ordered and delivers the invoices via the Internet.

23. A business method according to claim 19 wherein said invoicing is sent by e-mail.

24. An article comprising a kit containing a set of wire markers meeting specific requirements for an electrical subproject ordered by the system of claim 2, said markers being printed off site and delivered in a labeled package designating the intended location of said markers.

25. An article comprising a group of identification products selected and ordered by the system of claim 2.

26. An article according to claim 24 wherein said products are organized into at least one master carton.

27. An article comprising a master carton including products for a single device or area of a construction project configured by the system of claim 1.